

UPDATING THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION: REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION IN NORTH AFRICA, NEAR EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The regional consultation for North Africa, the Near East and Central Asia was convened in Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic, 2 to 3 November, 2010, to consider updating of the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (GPA). The consultation was organized and funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the collaboration of the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA). The Consultation *Agenda* is given in *Appendix A*. The list of participants is provided in *Appendix B*.
2. Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, FAO welcomed all participants to the consultation. He indicated his appreciation to ICARDA for organizing and hosting the consultation in collaboration with FAO, and thanked the staff for all the logistic support. Mr Diulgheroff stressed the ever growing role that plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) are playing in the context of global food security and of climate change. He invited all representatives from the region to make a substantive contribution in the process of updating the GPA, which represents since its adoption by 150 countries in 1996 a key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of these resources.
3. Dr Ir. Maarten van Ginkel, Deputy Director General – Research, ICARDA welcomed participants to the Centre. He stated that ICARDA was pleased to be part of the regional consultation as further efforts are needed to conserve and sustainably use dryland agrobiodiversity, and to strengthen national plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Dr van Ginkel stressed the urgent need to identify novel genes in genebanks and introgress these into modern cultivars to address growing production constraints. He indicated that the consultation would build on past collaboration of FAO and ICARDA in developing the CWANA contribution to the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SOW-2), and indicated that ICARDA will continue to play a key role in collecting and maintaining the genetic resources of CWANA region and in capacity building of NARS genebanks.
4. Mr Dan Leskien, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) reported that the Commission, at its Twelfth Regular Session, agreed to update the GPA in accordance with its Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work, and would consider the updated GPA its Thirteenth Regular Session in 2011. The Commission requested that FAO prepare the updated GPA based primarily on the SOW-2, and in particular, on the identified gaps and needs, taking into account further contributions from Governments, as well as inputs received from regional consultations.
5. Mr Leskien stressed the importance of the GPA as a supporting component of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty), and that the Commission had recommended that the GPA be focussed, so as to assist priority setting, including identifying priorities for the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty. He indicated that the Commission had called for coordination with the Secretary of the International Treaty in

the GPA updating process, and he described the process and presented the timeline for preparing the updated GPA.

6. Dr Ahmed Amri presented an overview of the characteristics of the production systems in the region and some of the production challenges. He provided a summary overview of gaps and needs from a regional perspective in consideration in updating of the GPA. The overview was prepared based on country reports from the region submitted to FAO as part of the process for preparing the SOW-2.
7. Mr Stefano Diulgheroff provided an overview of the significant changes and challenges in PGRFA conservation and use, as well as gaps and needs identified in the SOW-2 that would be considered in updating the GPA based upon advice received through the consultations from all regions. He indicated that the objective for the North Africa, the Near East and Central Asia consultation was to receive proposals and recommendations from representatives of the region on both the content and structure of the GPA as inputs for its updating. Mr Diulgheroff informed that common positions among participants, though helpful in providing advice to FAO, would not be necessary, as all suggestions and options would be recorded.
8. Ms Barbara Pick, FAO, described the composition and organization of the working group sessions. Participants which were divided into four groups considered the document, "Updating the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*", which *verbatim*, included the current *Global Plan of Action* as well as sections of the SOW-2 that identified changes since the *First Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and gaps and needs. Participants were also provided with other documents to assist in reviewing all sections of the current GPA including the Leipzig Declaration, the Introduction, Rationale, Aims and Strategies, Structure and Organization, and the Implementation and Financing section. The results of discussion were recorded by facilitators.

II. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A. Review of the Leipzig Declaration and Introduction

9. The Leipzig Declaration was briefly considered. Participants noted that the Leipzig Declaration is an important element of the current GPA, and many of its concepts remain valid. They suggested that the Declaration could provide the basis for re-negotiation of a new declaration by the Commission, or possibly a Joint Declaration between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty. Participants suggested that the Leipzig Declaration be placed as Annex in the updated GPA, given its historical significance.
10. Participants also provided a less favourable option, that is to replace the Leipzig Declaration with a Preface, using much of the language contained in the Leipzig Declaration, as well as the International Treaty.
11. The consultation reviewed the Introduction section of the current GPA (paragraphs 1-6), and provided a number of suggestions for consideration in updating the GPA. Participants suggested that:

- Most of the current text could be retained.
 - Sentence 4 be revised in paragraph 1, to indicate a positive relationship between conservation and use. The current formulation implies a potential negative incompatibility.
 - Update paragraph 2 to reflect the current status of the International Undertaking in relation to Global System.
 - Add text somewhere in the Introduction to indicate the coming into force of International Treaty and its relationship with the GPA.
 - Include at the end of paragraph 6 additional elements as follows: *A global plan of action will make significant and increasingly important contributions to promote food security, (livelihood improvement, rural development, sustainable agriculture and conservation of agriculture biodiversity).*
 - Add to the Introduction additional messages on gaps and needs as identified in SOW-2, such as, but not limited, to climate change.
 - Add to the Introduction the importance of support for developing countries – i.e. the importance of further support for implementation and that past support has been beneficial.
12. The consultation indicated the importance of revising the introduction to clearly indicate major changes since the first GPA, as indicated in the SOW-2 - gaps and needs. They noted the introduction should be motivational and interesting, in addition to providing the historic process. It should make clear the importance of PGR and the need for a GPA. The introduction should stress the many challenges that lie ahead that must be met to feed a growing human population, and make clear that the GPA even more important today, than it was in past given food insecurity, and pressures from climate change and other challenges.
13. Participant stressed the importance of linking the GPA implementation with implementation of the International Treaty, and it should be indicated that the Treaty should support and facilitate implementation of GPA. In this regard, the Governing Body's role in implementation of GPA should also be clear, as well as relationships with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant instruments.

B. Review of the Rationale section of the *Global Plan of Action*

14. The consultation reviewed the Rationale section of the current GPA (paragraphs 7(a) – 7(g)) and provided the following suggestions for consideration in updating:
- 7a: retain

- 7b: retain/ add to last sentence *these so-called centres of diversity are nevertheless still largely located in developing countries (and will benefit from having a plan of action).*
- 7c: retain
- 7d: retain first sentence and notion of interdependence (add interdependence of regions). Delete or change second sentence relating to benefit sharing as not relevant here.
- 7e: retain
- 7f: retain
- 7g: retain move the last sentence of the paragraph to begin the paragraph i.e. it will be the first sentence rather than the last.

C. Review of the Aims and Strategies of the *Global Plan of Action*

15. The consultation reviewed the main Aims of the GPA (paragraph 9), and made the following suggestions:

- Some participants suggested that the title could indicate Aims only and reference to Strategies be deleted. Others indicated if paragraph 10 was made clearer, than Strategies should be retained in the section heading.
- Participants suggested adding text to aim one indicated in bold: to ensure the conservation of PRFRA as a basis for food security (**as well as a basis for sustainable agriculture**).
- Participants suggested to change aim two: to promote sustainable (**use**) (**rather than utilization**) of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in order to foster development and to reduce hunger and poverty particularly in developing countries.
- Participants suggested replacing aim three with text from International Treaty.
- Participants suggested retaining, as is aim four: to assist countries and institutions responsible for conserving and using PGRFA to identify priorities for action.
- Participants suggested to retain, as is aim five: to strengthen, in particular, national programmes, as well as regional and international programmes, including education and training, for the conservation and utilization of PGRFA and to enhance institutional capacity.
- Participants suggested an additional aim: **to promote information sharing on PGR among and within countries.**

16. The consultation reviewed the strategies of the GPA (paragraph 10) and suggested two options:
- One option would be to delete most of paragraph 10, except the last part of the last sentence, such that the paragraph would begin: The GPA was developed within broad strategic framework comprised of six basic and inter-related aspects.
 - The second option would be to retain most of paragraph 10, but improve its clarity, in particular, improve the first sentence and remove repetition.
17. Participant made the following suggestions with respect to the sub-paragraphs of paragraph 10:
- 10a: retain and update
 - 10b: retain
 - 10c: retain
 - 10d: retain
 - 10e: retain
 - 10f: retain most of text, but in the last sentence replace the word **mix** – with the word **complementary** (complementary interrelated approaches).
 - Participants observed that in paragraph 10(f) national, regional and international levels is specified; and indicated that all three levels should be more consistently applied in the updated GPA.

D. Review of the Structure and Organization of the *Global Plan of Action*

18. The consultation reviewed the Structure and Organization of the GPA and provided the following suggestions for consideration in updating:

The 20 Priority Activities

- Overall, most of the current structure should be retained.
- Consideration should be given to merging some of the 20 Priority Activities Areas (PAA).
- Some participants indicated consideration be given to adding **plant breeding to PAA 13**, and to consider biotechnology – modern technologies under the PAA.
- Some participants proposed adding a PAA on **Farmers Rights and ABS**. Others did not support this. Some participant suggested a PAA only on **Farmers Rights**.
- Participant noted that paragraph 11 would need to be revised to reflect any re-structuring.

The Long-term and Intermediate Objectives:

- Overall, participant recommended keeping both the long-term and intermediate objectives, but noted they should be distinctive.
- Participants generally agreed that the long-term objectives should be an inspiration, a long-term goal – or outcomes to be achieved under the PAA. Intermediate objectives should be written as actions or steps necessary to achieve the long-term objectives or long-term goal.
- Some participants favoured using the terms: **long-term goals and intermediate objectives**.

E. Review of the Priority Activity Areas of the *Global Plan of Action*

19. The consultation undertook a review of the 20 Priority Activities and provided suggestions to be considered in updating the GPA, as indicated below.

***In situ* Conservation and Development**

PAA 1. Surveying and inventorying plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

20. Some participants suggested changing the title of PAA-1 to **Surveying and inventorying plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and development**.
21. In reviewing the objectives, participants felt that the objectives remained valid, but needed to add new and immediate concerns in relation to new threats (climate change). Other suggestions included:
- In the Long-term objective: ecosystems should be included in paragraph 16.
 - In the Long-term objective: some participants felt the long-term objective should be expanded to include a scope beyond the time frame of the GPA.
 - In the Intermediate objective: some participants suggested adding to the development of methodologies, assessment of threats, and in particular, climate change. **“Development of methodologies and assessment of threats including climate change”**.
 - Greater attention needed to be given to anticipated uses.
22. To the **Assessment** section, participants suggested:
- The GPA should be updated to acknowledge that the International Treaty now exists.
 - The importance of sharing surveys and inventories between countries should be added.

- There should be emphasis given to SOW-2 p.28 paragraphs:

Most surveys, however, have been limited to single crops, small groups of species or to limited areas within the national territory. (SOW-2 p.28)

Very little survey or inventory work has been carried out on PGRFA in protected areas compared to other components of biodiversity in these areas. (SOW-2 p.28)

23. In the **Policy/strategy** section, participants indicated that there should be greater focus on wild relatives and emphasis on regulations and policies of on-farm conservation. The **Capacity**, accepted as currently written. Some felt, capacity should be closely linked with **Policy/strategy** and **Research/Technology** sections. Some felt, that capacity needed stronger links with the intermediate objectives, and focus on threats and technology development. Participants suggested adding to **Capacity: the need to develop capacity to promote standard definitions and means of assessing genetic vulnerability and genetic erosion** (SOW-2 need reported under Policy/Strategy section - 1st bullet).
24. In the **Research/technology** section, participants suggested to extend research to new areas beyond molecular techniques of inventorying and assessing diversity; and link research-technology to intermediate objectives, focus on threats and technology development. In the review of the changes, gaps and needs, some participants felt that bullets in the grey box should not be included in this PAA.
25. In the **Coordination/administration** section, participants suggested the need to share information on the work in relation to the inventories carried out so far (protected areas). There should be greater cooperation between relevant agencies and ministries engaged in *in situ* and *ex situ* activities. Some felt: sharing of information on successful stories would be beneficial.

PAA 2. Supporting on-farm management and improvement of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

26. Some participants suggested to modify the title to add sustainability to the end, "...for food and **agricultural sustainability**". Specific wording change options were proposed to the objectives: the Long-term objective should be updated in light of the international treaty; *Support* of on-farm management and improvement should be added to objectives. Some felt **gender** should be used instead of women in last sentence of paragraph 33. Some felt the long-term objectives should be narrowed as it now appears beyond the title of the PAA. Objectives should include a focus on climate change; and some felt that a focus on ecosystems should be added.
27. Participants supported a Priority Area for breeding to be added.
28. Participants made the following additional suggestions. The **Assessment** section, remains as it is. In the **Policy/strategy** section, update paragraph 34 "no single plan or recipe..." to reflect Indian law. Participants indicated emphasis be given to the following SOW-2 gaps and needs:

- There is a need for more effective policies, legislation and regulations governing the *in situ* and on farm management of PGRFA, both inside and outside of protected areas (SOW-2 p.44 b.3); ALSO PAA-4 & PAA-15
- A better understanding of, and support for, farmers' management of diversity is still needed, in spite of significant advances in this area. Opportunities exist for improving the livelihoods of rural communities through an improved management of diversity (SOW-2 p.17 b.2); ALSO PAA-11 & PAA-12 & PAA-20
- In order to capture the potential market value of native crops, local varieties, underutilized crops and the like, there is a need for greater integration of the efforts of individuals and institutions having a stake in different parts of the production chain, from the development and testing of new varieties, through value added activities, to the opening up of new markets (SOW-2 p.116 b.7); ALSO PAA-4 & PAA-9 & PAA-14 & PAA-12
- There is a need for countries to adopt appropriate and effective strategies, policies, legal frameworks and regulations that promote the use of PGRFA, including appropriate seed legislation (SOW-2 p.116 b.3); ALSO PAA-11 & PAA-12 & PAA-13 & PAA-15

29. In the **Capacity** section, participants put emphasis on the following SOW-2 gaps and needs:

- There is an urgent need to increase plant breeding capacity worldwide in order to be able to adapt agriculture to meet the rapidly expanding demand for more and different food, as well as non-food products, under substantially different climatic conditions from those prevailing today. The training of more breeders, technicians and field workers, and the provision of better facilities and adequate funds are all essential (SOW-2 p.115 b.1); ALSO PAA-4 & PAA-10 & PAA-11 & PAA-12 & PAA-15 & PAA-19
- More investment is needed in the improvement of under-utilized crops as well as of traits in major crops that are likely to assume greater importance in the future as increased attention is paid to health and dietary concerns and as the effects of climate change intensify (SOW-2 p.116 b.6); ALSO PAA-4 & PAA-10 & PAA-11 & PAA-12 & PAA-14 & PAA-20

30. In the **Research/Technology** section, Research and taxonomy should be added. The research agenda should be more clearly linked to the objectives. paragraph 45 should be updated to reflect that some of this is taking place. There should be more emphasis on on-farm management, and emphasis was placed on the following sub-bullets of the SOW-2 highlighted need.

- Specific research needs relating to on farm management or *in situ* conservation of PGRFA include (SOW-2 p.44 b.10):
 - Studies on the extent and nature of possible threats to existing diversity on farm and *in situ*; ALSO PAA-3 & PAA-4 & PAA-7 & PAA-8 & PAA-11 & 15 & PAA-18
 - Ethno botanical and socio-economic studies, including the study of indigenous and local knowledge, to better understand the role and limits of farming communities in the management of PGRFA; ALSO PAA-11 & PAA-12

31. In the **Coordination/administration** section, paragraph 48, "IPGRI" should be changed to **Bioversity**, and also add "**between different ministries (*ex situ* and *in situ*) and between different levels of PGRFA organisations**".

PAA 3. Assisting farmers in disaster situations to restore agricultural systems

32. Some participants accepted the title as it is. Others suggested that the title should be changed to “Assisting farmers in disaster situations to restore *agrobiodiversity*” or “... restore *on-farm agrobiodiversity*”.
33. Some participants suggested that this PAA be linked with PAA-18 (early warning system) when the title is changed as above, but some did not agree with this change. Another suggestion was that the objective should be to restore previous systems, instead of having adaptive varieties for new conditions.
34. Participants suggested changes to the **Objective**, with paragraph 52 changed to include propagation material...”**To establish capacity to deliver seed and vegetatively propagated material.....”**.
35. In the **Assessment** section, some felt that special emphasis should be put on the importance of adapted material. In the **Policy/Strategy**, some felt that the role of these activities in obtaining post-disaster food security should be addressed. Some felt that special emphasis should be placed on the first two needs from the SOW-2 (first two bullets below), while some thought all three SOW-2 identified gaps below not to be appropriate in the current context.
 - There is a need in all countries to develop and put in place early warning systems for genetic erosion (SOW-2 p.44 b.7); ALSO PAA-18
 - There is a need to promote standard definitions and means of assessing genetic vulnerability and genetic erosion, as well as to agree on more and better indicators, in order to be able to establish national, regional and global baselines for monitoring diversity and changes in it, and for establishing effective early warning systems (SOW-2 p.20 b.5); ALSO PAA-2 & PAA-7 & PAA-18
 - There is still an ongoing need to improve the coverage of diversity in *ex situ* collections, including CWR and farmers’ varieties, coupled with better characterization, evaluation and documentation of the collections (SOW-2 p.17 b.1); ALSO PAA-5 & PAA-7 & PAA-9 (WG2)
36. **In the Capacity section**, Capacity and research/technology should be linked and emphasis should be placed on international and regional partners. The **Research/Technology** is valid as is. In the **Coordination/Administration**, additional emphasis should be placed on international and regional partners.

PAA 4. Promoting *in situ* conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production

37. Participants accepted the title as it is. Some felt **gender** should be used instead of **women** in last sentence of paragraph 67. In paragraph 68: some felt that **Plant genetic resources** should be replaced with **CWR and Wild Plants** to more closely match the title. Participants indicated that paragraph 69 was particularly important.
38. In the **Assessment** section, participants proposed underlining that during the past years CWR had received more attention though this should be further increased in the future.

39. In the **Policy/Strategy**, some felt that point “F” in paragraph 70, is important, and also indicated special emphasis be given to the following SOW-2 reported gaps and needs:

- There is a need for specific strategies to be developed for conserving PGRFA in situ and for managing crop diversity on farm. Special attention needs to be given to conservation of CWR in their centres of origin, major centres of diversity and biodiversity hotspot areas (SOW-2 p.44 b.5); ALSO PAA-2 & PAA-11 & PAA-15
- Greater measures are needed in many countries to counter the threat of alien invasive species (SOW-2 p.44 b.8); ALSO PAA-15 & PAA-18

40. Participants suggested that the SOW-2 gap should include CWR after “PGRFA”:

- There is a need for countries to adopt appropriate and effective strategies, policies, legal frameworks and regulations that promote the use of PGRFA, including appropriate seed legislation (SOW-2 p.116 b.3); ALSO PAA-2 & PAA-11 & PAA-13 & PAA-15

41. In the **Capacity** section, some participants stressed that the updated GPA be sent **DIRECTLY to decision makers**, not via focal point/secretary. Some felt that the text should better link capacity building to current and emerging threats, opportunities, and use. Participants indicated that there was no **Research/Technology** section in this PA, and that research is needed on geographic distribution of specific CWR, research taxonomy and reproductive behaviour, and research could be needed on nutritional values of wild plants for food production. Emphasis should be placed on the monitoring aspect of research and extend research to new areas beyond molecular techniques or monitoring. In the **Coordination/Administration** section, coordination between in situ and ex situ activities was stressed by participants.

42. Participant suggested that under **Capacity** the following gaps and needs extracted from the SOW-2 are not relevant to the current context:

- In the effort to mobilize additional resources for ex situ conservation, greater efforts are needed in raising awareness among policy makers and the general public, of the importance of PGRFA and the need to safeguard it (SOW-2 p.87 b.9). ALSO PAA-5 & PAA-6 & PAA-7 & PAA-8 & PAA-20
- More investment is needed in the improvement of under-utilized crops as well as of traits in major crops that are likely to assume greater importance in the future as increased attention is paid to health and dietary concerns and as the effects of climate change intensify (SOW-2 p.116 b.6); ALSO PAA-2 & PAA-10 & PAA-11 & PAA-12 & PAA-14 & PAA-20

Ex situ Conservation

PAA 5. Sustaining existing *ex situ* collections

43. Participants made the following general comments regarding this section.

- There was near consensus on merging PAA-5 with PAA-8 because of their close relationship.
- There were recommendations for combining PAA-5 and PAA-8:

- i. Retain paragraph 132 “To conserve PGR for food and agriculture so they are available for use”
 - ii. Add paragraphs for:
 1. Safeguarding
 2. Developing system
 3. Developing cooperation
 - Paragraphs related to *in-situ* and on-farm conservation could be removed.
44. Participants suggested changing the **title**: it was felt that the word “**existing**” should be deleted from the title. New Title: ‘**Sustaining *ex-situ* collections**’.
45. Participants suggested the following changes to the **Objectives**, Combine paragraphs 80, 81 and 132 or reformulate as appropriate and highlight/add the development of capacity, methods and tools. Some indicated that the International Treaty should explicitly be mentioned as a legal international agreement here.
46. Suggestions were also provided to improve the **Assessment** section. The importance of CWR should be emphasized in this section. The **Policy/Strategy** is valid as it stands. In the **Capacity** section, emphasis should be placed on supporting NARS to develop their capacity to safeguard their own genetic research. The **Research/Technology** remains valid as it stands, as does the section on **Coordination/Administration**.

PAA 6. Regenerating threatened *ex situ* accessions

47. Participant suggested to change the title by deleting the word **threatened** and adding ‘**multiplication**’ to the title and to the Objectives: **New title: ‘Regenerating and multiplying *ex-situ* accessions’**, the expressed was that the processes are very similar, and the aim is to assure availability for use.
48. Participant proposed changes to the **Objectives**: to add additional consideration to both long-term (base) and shorter-term (active) conservation. In paragraph 96: Long-term objectives: Change to: **Have the material viable and ready for distribution; and the Infrastructure needed to process for periodic regeneration**.
49. Participants suggested changes to other sections. In the **Assessment** section, delete the following sentence extracted from the SOW-2:

Given the money and resources that less frequent regeneration would save, it is probably time to apply the innovation of the genomics age to the mundane concern of seed storage containers and temperature/humidity regimes. (SOW-2 p.265 Sec. A 3.6)

50. In the **Policy/Strategy** section, paragraph 98: Highlight CWR as a priority; and provide information on regenerated material with international support being made public. In the SOW-2 insertion under the **Capacity** section, replace ‘**Many countries**’ with “**Many institutes/genebanks**”. In the **Research/Technology** section, paragraph 110: add **cryo-preservation methods** “...reinforce research to improve conservation technologies....”; in paragraph 111: highlight **cross-pollinated species**; and in paragraph 112: participants questioned who will assemble the data. The **Coordination/Administration** section remains as it is.

PAA 7. Supporting planned and targeted collecting of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

51. Participants proposed a new title: delete the word '**planned**', as 'all collecting should be 'planned'. **New title: Supporting targeted collecting of PGRFA**
52. No wording changes were proposed to the objectives.
53. In the **Policy/Strategy**, add reference to the **International Treaty** in addition to CBD. In the **Assessment** section, delete last insertion concerning problems of unplanned duplication due to exchange – not relevant here. In the **Capacity** section, in paragraph 121: delete words '**where desired**'; change to '**preferably in country where collected** (country of origin)'. paragraphs 121 and 122 appear to be as contradictory. Delete paragraph 122.
54. With respect to the insertions from the SOW-2, the second gap and need (one bullet and two sub-bullets reported below), was considered out of context.

- Specific research needs relating to on farm management or *in situ* conservation of PGRFA include (SOW-2 p.44 b.10):
- Studies on the extent and nature of possible threats to existing diversity on farm and *in situ*; PAA-3 & PAA-4 & PAA-8 & PAA-11 & PAA-15 & PAA-18
 - The need for better inventories and characterization data on land races, CWR and other useful wild species, including forages, in order to better target *in situ* conservation action; PAA-1 & PAA-4 & PAA-8 & PAA-9 & PAA-18

55. The **Research/technology** section remains valid according to the consultation. In the **Coordination/administration** section, paragraph 127, change '**may**' to '**should** designate a focal point'.

PAA 8. Expanding *ex situ* conservation activities

56. Participants suggested to **combine PAA-8 with PAA-5** and reformulate accordingly. In paragraph 136: add "balance support to local communities".

Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources

PAA 9. Expanding the Characterization, Evaluation and Number of Core Collections to Facilitate Use

57. General agreement among participants that **PAA-12 and PAA-14 have similar aims and should be merged**; and that core collections have had their day and the focus in this section should be on methodologies that can identify specific traits as defined by the user.
58. With respect to the title, the consultation suggested the following options:
 - **Expanding the characterization and evaluation of accession to facilitate use.**
 - **Expanding the characterization and evaluation of accession and the development of methodologies for trait specific sub-sets to facilitate use**

59. Participants suggested the following additional changes. In the **Assessment** section, in paragraph 146 and 147, **remove reference to core collections** and talk about trait specific collections. The following gap and change from the SOW-2 need to be addressed in the GPA.

➤ A lack of adequate characterization and evaluation data and the capacity to generate and manage it, remain a serious constraint to the use of many germplasm collections, especially of under-utilized crops and wild relatives (SOW-2 p.116 b.8); ALSO PAA-2 & PAA-4 & PAA-19

↻ Documentation and characterization data on collections have progressed somewhat, although there are still large data gaps and much of the existing data is not accessible electronically (SOW-2 p.86 b.7); ALSO PAA-6 & PAA-9 & PAA-17

60. With respect to the **Objectives**, participants suggested, in paragraph 148, last sentence, rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and farming systems could also be mentioned. In paragraph 149, gene mining needs to be focussed. References to climate change should be added in paragraphs 150 and 152 where the focus should shift from core collections to trait specific sets. Inclusion of extension services and farmers' involvement in the characterization/evaluation efforts was highlighted.

61. In the **Policy/Strategy** section, in paragraph 153, section *e*, the importance of a **funding mechanisms** need to be emphasized. In paragraph 154, focus should be shifted from core collections to tools to identify useful traits. The following gaps/needs from SOW-2 were proposed to be highlighted.

➤ There is still an ongoing need to improve the coverage of diversity in *ex situ* collections, including CWR and farmers' varieties, coupled with better characterization, evaluation and documentation of the collections (SOW-2 p.17 b.1); ALSO PAA-3 & PAA-5 & PAA-6 & PAA-7 & PAA-9 (emphasize in GPA)

➤ The need for better inventories and characterization data on land races, CWR and other useful wild species, including forages, in order to better target *in situ* conservation action; (SOW-2 p.44 b.10) ALSO PAA-1 & PAA-4 & PAA-7 & PAA-8 & PAA-18 (supported in GPA)

➤ To better serve the management of collections and encourage an increased use of the germplasm, documentation, characterization and evaluation all need to be strengthened and harmonized and the data need to be made more accessible. Greater standardization of data and information management systems is needed (SOW-2 p.87 b.6); ALSO PAA-6 & PAA-16 & PAA-17 (emphasize in GPA)

62. With respect to **Research/Technology**, participants indicated the importance of bridging the data available through the documentation systems. This is important element for the research infrastructure and should be highlighted.

PAA 10. Increasing Genetic Enhancement and Base-Broadening Efforts

63. With respect to the title, the some participants suggested the following alternative: **Genetic enhancement and base-broadening efforts.**

64. With respect to the **Objectives**, the following suggestions were provided: In paragraph 170, to reduce genetic uniformity (**replace with vulnerability**) in crop varieties through the utilization of wild relatives, local materials and/or modern varieties. In paragraph 171, Alternative Proposed: **To provide tools and resources necessary to increase genetic diversity available**

in breeders' populations through appropriate strategies of introgression (base-broadening).

65. With regard to the **Assessment** section, participants suggested, in paragraph 168, the need for strong **pre-breeding programs**, and in paragraph 169, an emphasis on the need to **train new plant breeders**. Both the following changes from SOW-2 were suggested to be incorporated into the updated GPA.

- ↪ Concerns about the potential impact of climate change have grown substantially over the past decade. Agriculture is both a source and a sink for atmospheric carbon. PGFRA are becoming recognised as being critically important for the development of farming systems that capture more carbon and emit fewer greenhouse gasses, and for underpinning the breeding of the new varieties that will be needed for agriculture to adapt to the anticipated future environmental conditions (SOW-2 p.198 b.3); ALSO PAA-2 & PAA-11 (address in GPA)
- ↪ There has been a substantial increase in awareness over the past decade of the extent and nature of the threats posed by climate change, and of the importance and potential of PGFRA in helping agriculture to remain productive under the new conditions through their underpinning of efforts to breed new, adapted crop varieties (SOW-2 p.115 b.8); ALSO PAA-3 & PAA-9 & PAA-11 & PAA-18 & PAA-20 (address in GPA)

66. In the **Policy/Strategy** section, retain from the SOW-2 the following gaps and needs:

- Greater efforts are needed in order to mainstream new biotechnological and other tools within plant breeding programmes (SOW-2 p.116 b.5); ALSO PAA-2 & PAA-11 (address in GPA)
- More investment is needed in the improvement of under-utilized crops as well as of traits in major crops that are likely to assume greater importance in the future as increased attention is paid to health and dietary concerns and as the effects of climate change intensify (SOW-2 p.116 b.6); ALSO PAA-2 & PAA-4 PAA-11 & PAA-12 & PAA-14 & PAA-20 (address in GPA)
- The growing consensus on the nature, extent and rate of climate change makes it imperative that far greater attention be paid to anticipating and preparing for its effects. Given the time needed to breed a new crop variety (around ten years), it is essential that additional plant breeding capacity be built now, especially in developing countries, and that breeding programmes expand their efforts to develop the traits and varieties needed to meet the challenge (SOW-2 p.199 b.1); (address in GPA)

67. **In the Capacity** section, in paragraph 173, need to also include **capacity development of bioinformatics** – which underpin characterization and utilization issues; and need to increase capacity in traditional fields of plant science – **phenomics including taxonomy, physiology, field and lab evaluation** – without over-emphasizing molecular biology.

68. The **Research/Technology** and the **Coordination/Administration** are valid as they are.

PAA 11. Promoting Sustainable Agriculture through Diversification of Crop Production and Broader Diversity in Crops

69. Some participants proposed changing the title as follows: **Promoting sustainable agriculture through diversification of *plant* production and broader diversity in agricultural system.**

70. With respect to the **Objective**, participants suggested in paragraph 179, to consider “degradation” as an alternative word to “erosion”..... **“To promote sustainable agriculture and reduce genetic erosion (degradation) and possible genetic vulnerability by diversifying crop production and increasing genetic diversity in crops.”**

71. With regard to the **Assessment** section, participants suggested, in paragraph 177, to emphasize the importance to put food as number one priority when considering the food/fuel competition for arable land. Retain from the SOW-2 and elaborate in the updated GPA the following bullets:

- ⇒ There have been growing efforts to strengthen the relationship between agriculture and the provision of ecosystem services. Schemes that promote PES - such as the *in situ* or on farm conservation of PGRFA - are being set up in an attempt to encourage and reward farmers and rural communities for their stewardship of the environment. However, the fair and effective implementation of such schemes remains a major challenge (SOW-2 p.198 b.2); ALSO PAA-2 This was strongly stressed as important to address in GPA
- Many countries still lack national strategies and/or action plans for the management of diversity - or if they have them, they do not fully implement them. Areas that require particular attention include setting priorities, enhancing national and international cooperation, the further development of information systems and identifying gaps in the conservation of PGRFA, including CWR (SOW-2 p.20 b.6); ALSO PAA-2 & PAA-15 & PAA-17 address in GPA
- Many countries lack nationally endorsed strategies and plans for the conservation and use of PGRFA. These are important for setting priorities, distributing roles and responsibilities, and allocating resources (SOW-2 p.137 b.3); ALSO PAA-12 & PAA-15 address in GPA
- ⇒ Concerns about the potential impact of climate change have grown substantially over the past decade. Agriculture is both a source and a sink for atmospheric carbon. PGRFA are becoming recognised as being critically important for the development of farming systems that capture more carbon and emit fewer greenhouse gasses, and for underpinning the breeding of the new varieties that will be needed for agriculture to adapt to the anticipated future environmental conditions (SOW-2 p.198 b.3); ALSO PAA-2 address in GPA

72. In the **Policy/Strategy** section, in paragraph 182, caution is needed in handling GMOs in the centers of diversity of the transformed crops; need to base the diversification on land suitability and sustainability of natural resources. From the SOW-2, participants felt it was important to **address all the gaps identified in the GPA** as shown in this section.

73. In the **Capacity** section, in paragraph 184, need to include **plant breeding** capacity. Participants felt it was important to address in the GPA **all gaps** identified from the SOW-2, in this section. In the **Research/technology** section, in paragraph 185, need to promote the use of **under-utilized crops and to work on domestication of other species** to cope with the challenges of climate change as included in one of the recommendations of the SOW-2.

74. In the **Coordination/Administration** section, participants felt it was important to address **all the gaps** identified in the GPA as shown in this section. In paragraph 188, need for **GEF, ITPGRFA and other funding agencies** to promote actions for *in situ/on-farm* conservation of agrobiodiversity. In addition, development projects should also encourage ***in situ and on-farm conservation*** of agrobiodiversity in biodiversity rich areas and the centers of diversity. The following gap/need from the SOW-2 need to be addressed in the updated GPA.

- The involvement of local communities is essential in any *in situ* conservation or on farm management, effort and traditional knowledge systems and practices need to be fully taken into

account. Collaboration between all stakeholders needs to be strengthened in many countries (SOW-2 p.44 b.6); ALSO PAA-2 & PAA-4 & PAA-15 & PAA-18 & PAA-20

PAA 12 Promoting Development and Commercialization of Under-utilized Crops and Species

75. With respect to the title, participant suggested that PAA-12 be merged with PAA-14. A possible new title would be: **Promoting development, commercialization and marketing of underutilized crops, species, local varieties and diversity rich products**. It was also suggested to change the title to include both **seed production and multiplication** of plant propagation material as in case of fruit trees
76. With respect to the **Objectives** participant agreed, they remain valid.
77. In the **Assessment** section, the following change from the SOW-2 need to be reflected in the GPA.

↗ There is growing interest in hitherto ‘neglected’ and under-utilised species such as traditional vegetables and fruits (SOW-2 p.17 b.4); ALSO PAA-4 & PAA-14

78. With regards to the **Policy/Strategy** section, participants indicated that in paragraph 192, the World Trade Organization should consider the value of agrobiodiversity in accessing the markets. If underutilized crops are developed and commercialized – there is need for a policy for benefit sharing that targets farmers and traditional custodians.
79. In the **Capacity** section, participants emphasized that the **two gaps from the SOW-2** need to be addressed in the updated GPA. In the **Research/technology** section, participant indicated in paragraph 194, the need for **research on domestication of some species**. Participants suggested that the identified gaps and needs from the SOW-2 should be addressed in GPA. In the **Coordination/Administration** section, in paragraph 195, while regional networks are potentially useful they do not often work or are effective without a commitment of ongoing funding and clear objectives. Strengthen linkages between PGRFA conservation and users.

PAA 13. Supporting Seed Production and Distribution

80. With respect to the title, there was discussion about if “**seed**” is explicit enough in the meaning – i.e. seed is a multiple use word. Perhaps change the title to include both **seed production and multiplication of plant propagated material**, as in case of fruit trees.
81. With respect to the **Objectives**, participants suggested, in paragraph 198, to add “including **farmer varieties**”; and add **plant-propagated material along with seeds**. In paragraph 200, include **farmer varieties** – not just commercialized seed; and include **plant-propagated material** along with seeds. In paragraphs 201 and 202, include **plant-propagated material along with seeds**.
82. In the **Assessment** section, in paragraph 197, include **plant-propagated material** along with seeds. Also, some felt that GPA should support and encourage the positive trends outlined in this section. In the **Policy/strategy** section, in paragraph 203, add “**and seed producers**” to first sentence – “Governments and their national agricultural research systems, *and seed*

producers”; international organizations to render support in this area in particular; and need a legal framework to cope with farmer varieties/landraces in seed sector, as at present most legislation deals with varieties of a uniform nature as defined by UPOV etc.

83. Participants agreed that **all gaps** from the SOW-2 in this section needed to be addressed in GPA. In the **Capacity** section, in paragraph 204, include **plant-propagated material** along with seeds. In paragraph 201, part (a) Encourage existing seed enterprises (consider replacing with seed production systems) to improve the range and quality (to international standards) of planting materials they offer. Participants agreed that changes in this section from the SOW-2 needed to be addressed in GPA. In the **Research/Technology** section, in paragraph 205, include **plant-propagated material** along with seeds; and in paragraph 205(a) Assess current incentives and disincentives as well as needs for support to seed production and distribution enterprises (**replace with “systems”**), including small-scale, farmer-level efforts. In the **Coordination/administration** section, in paragraphs 206 and 207, include **plant-propagated material** along with seeds.

PAA 14. Developing New Markets for Local Varieties and Diversity-Rich Products

84. In reviewing the title, participants suggested that this PAA be merged with PAA-12.
85. With respect to the **Objectives**, participants suggested, in paragraph 210, the need to use uniform terminology was identified: “Stimulate stronger demand and more reliable market mechanisms for landraces/farmers’ varieties and related agricultural products.”
86. With regards to the **Assessment** section, participants supported **all of the changes** from the SOW-2 to be considered in the update of the GPA. With regards to the **Policy/Strategy** section, participants agreed with the **gaps identified in the SOW-2** and the need to add them to the GPA. In the **Capacity** section, in paragraph 215, training of extension workers to be effective in this field – **underutilized species**. The **Research/Technology** section is missing from this PAA. Under **Coordination/Administration**, paragraph 216, is very general – should include what is, and how to be more effective.

Institutions and Capacity Building

PAA 15. Building Strong National Programs

87. In reviewing the title participants suggested a change of wording: “**strong**” to be changed to “**effective**”; and to add “**establish and strengthen existing** national programmes”
88. With respect to the **Objectives**, participants provided the following suggestions: In paragraph 222, wording “**to identify** and meet national needs” to be changed (the identification of needs is a step towards the ultimate objective, not a long-term objective as such). In paragraph 225: need to specify that the improvement of institutional and sectoral linkages should also lead to the prevention of parallel collection of genetic resources /avoid redundant collections within the same country. In paragraph 226, should also mention the need to **develop national capacities in legislation**. In paragraph 226, need to specify that national capacities should be developed for both technical staff and policy makers.

89. With respect to **Assessment** section, participants supported **inserts from SOW-2 valid, but need to avoid repetition**. Participants highlighted: Bullet 1 (“many countries still lack national strategies and/or action plans...or if they have them, they do not fully implement them...”); Issue of funding of national programmes; and Bullet 12: “the importance of farmers as custodians and developers of genetic diversity”.
90. With respect to the **Policy/Strategy** section, participants highlighted paragraph 227: need to highlight the importance of raising awareness among policy makers to get access to funds for supporting national programmes; Bullet 1: national strategies are needed not only for in situ and on farm conservation but also for ex situ conservation taking into account the complementary approach; Bullet 5 (on farmers’ rights) and suggested to mention **Plant Breeders’ Rights**; Bullet 6 (on awareness among policy-makers, donors and the general public); and Bullet 7: the need to adopt appropriate and effective strategies, policies, legal frameworks and regulation should not focus only on the use of PGRFA (as written) but also on **conservation of PGRFA** - plus need to specify that “**the appropriate seed legislation**” should be done for local farmers/local communities.
91. In the **Capacity** section, participants indicated repetition with policy/strategy and capacity sections. They highlighted: issues of funding national programmes in the context of weak economic conditions; and the importance of the need for technical support from international organizations.; In Bullet 1: need to mention the **ITPGRFA** with regard to the assistance in developing policies and legislation; in Bullet 7 (**plant breeding capacity**); and Bullet 10 (**role of agricultural markets** in helping achieve food security and sustainable agricultural development).
92. With respect to the **Coordination/Administration** section, participants highlighted in paragraph 239: the need to mention the **ITPGRFA**, Bullet 1 (on Traditional Knowledge); Bullet 6 (on the need for greater internal coordination among different ministries and institutions and between the public and private sectors); Bullet 7 (on closer collaboration and coordination, nationally and internationally, especially between the **agriculture and environment sectors**); Bullet 8 (on the need for greater coordination and cooperation among agencies and institutions concerned with international aspects of conservation and use of PGRFA...); Coordination among international networks/fora supported by ICARDA, CYMMIT, FAO, BI, etc.) Should be strengthened; and Issues of funding strategies.

PAA 16. Promoting networks for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

93. In reviewing the title, some participants suggested to change the wording “**promoting**” into “**strengthening**”.
94. With respect to the **Objectives**, participants suggested in paragraph 243: “crop-based, thematic and in situ oriented networks”: **no need to specify or add “and on farm”** but if added “on farm” it should be **relocated under intermediate objectives** (long-term objectives need to be general). In paragraph 246, the sentence should either be very general and stick to PGRFA **or add neglected and underutilized crops**. In paragraphs 247 and 248: networks should be established not only at the regional level but also at the **national level - drop the word**

“regional”. In paragraph 248, the sentence is too specific, it **should target the establishment of new networks** at regional and national levels in general - or specify what crops and thematic networks are targeted here to make it more concrete.

95. With respect to the **Assessment** section, participants suggested to highlight Bullet 1 (on wide access to materials); Bullet 2: all regional networks should be indicated, the list should be made comprehensive. - avoid mentioning examples; and Bullet 5 (on new crop specific networks that have been established). With respect to the **Policy/Strategy** section, participants suggested to highlight the importance of collaboration and coordination at national, regional, nationally and international levels, in particular between the agriculture and environment sectors; documentation, characterization and evaluation should be strengthened and standardized and data be made more accessible; and Bullet 5 on awareness among policy makers and the general public.
96. In the **Capacity** section, participants noted the need to review paragraph 254 regarding the **list of regions**; and highlighted the issue of funding capacity. In the **Coordination/Administration** section, participants noted in paragraph 256, the need to specify from **which organizations resources** should be made available both at the national and international levels; and recognized the need for **coordinating at the global level** networking efforts and their financial support.

PAA 17. Constructing comprehensive information systems for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

97. In reviewing the title, some participants suggested to change the word **“constructing”** to **“developing”**. Others suggested changing the title into **“one comprehensive information system”** to highlight the need for standardization/harmonization of data.
98. With respect to the **Objectives**, participants suggested the need for harmonization, standardization as a means to achieve the overall objective. In paragraph 261, it was suggested to change the word **“establish”** to **“strengthening”**. Some participants suggested mentioning the issue of **ABS in paragraph 260**. In paragraph 261, strategies for the development of data and documentation systems should promote the adoption of uniform standards.
99. With respect to the **Assessment** section, participants highlighted a lack of comprehensive and integrated information management systems in many countries and the need to mention the usefulness of **bio-informatics tools** in a comprehensive information system.
100. With respect to the **Policy/Strategy** section, participants suggested to highlight the need for facilitating the exchange of information among countries through a globally integrated mechanism; and indicated that **all the gaps and needs from the SOW-2** reported under Policy/Strategy are relevant.
101. With respect to the **Capacity** section, participants suggested to highlight the importance of training in information exchange and use of the Internet. In the **Research/Technology** section, participants agreed that Points c) and d) (means for management an information

system) are still relevant - but specifically at **national level** and the need to mention **bio-informatics tools**.

PAA 18. Developing monitoring and early warning system for loss of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

102. With respect to the title, participants suggested to change “**loss**” to “**degradation**” or “**erosion**.” Some participants recognized the inter-relation between PAA-3 and PAA-18, though the majority considered it more appropriate to keep these separate.
103. With respect to the **Objectives**, participants suggested to focus not only on the establishment of mechanisms (3rd sentence) but also on the **implementation of existing mechanisms**. Some participants suggested adding some elements on the need to **expand the use of advanced technologies for monitoring degradation of most threatened species**.
104. Under **Assessment**, participants indicated this was still a good analysis of the situation, and emphasized the first two paragraphs in the grey box. With respect to the **Policy/Strategy** section, participants indicated the most relevant SOW-2 insertions as: Bullet 1 (on the need to promote standard definitions and means of assessing genetic vulnerability and genetic erosion, etc.); Bullet 2 (on the need to develop early warning systems for genetic erosion); Bullet 3 (on the need to step up efforts to conserve landraces, farmers’ varieties and CWR before they are lost as a result of changing climates), plus the need to add the context not only of changing climates but also **increasing populations**. Some suggested highlighting the need of linking national and international early warning systems. Some suggested recasting paragraph 284 (in the **French version**). In the **Capacity** section, participants suggested, in paragraph 285: to remove the word “**short**” for “short training”

PAA 19. Expanding and improving education and training

105. With respect to the title, participants accepted it as is. With respect to the **Objectives**, participants suggested to add the importance of training including in the **field of legislation**; and highlighted the need for **continuous updating of existing capacities**. They suggested that paragraph 298 come first – as it is very important, and that paragraph 296: the development of capacity is not only needed at regional level, but also at national and international levels. The same comment for paragraph 297 – short courses and educational modules not only regionally but also at national and international levels, plus delete “**short**” courses” and add “**primary and secondary education**”.
106. Under **Assessment**, participants indicated paragraphs 293 and 294 should be reformulated and made simpler. In the **Capacity** section, participants suggested that paragraph 302 is important but should be reformulated to include the national dimension and emphasize the need for scholarships for PHDs/doctoral training. Legislation and regulation topics should also be mentioned under paragraph 304. In Bullet 1: research capacity should also be strengthened in the field of biotechnology transfer; and in Bullet 2: the need to increase capacity should also cover *ex situ* **conservation**. In paragraph 307, change the word “**women**” with “**gender**”. In the **Research/Technology** section, participants suggested to

rephrase paragraph 309 as follows “Institutions should endeavour to link training with ongoing research **and development**”.

PAA 20. Promoting public awareness of the value of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture conservation and use

107. With respect to the title, some participants suggested to change the title as follows: **“Promoting Public and Policy-Makers Awareness of the Value of Plant Genetic Resources for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods”**.
108. With respect to the **Objectives**, participants suggested to add **“decision-makers’ awareness”** and not only “public awareness” and to add awareness at **policy level/decision-makers levels**.
109. Under **Assessment**, participants highlighted Bullet 6 (on the interest that is growing in neglected and under-utilized crops); and Bullet 8 (on the need for greater awareness among policy-makers, donors and the public). With respect to the **Policy/Strategy** section, participants indicated that Bullet 5 is very important (on the need to raise awareness among policy-makers and the public). Some suggested including the role of **extension services** to be involved in public awareness activities to convey messages of PGRFA importance, and noted **Bullet 2 is out of context here**. In the **Capacity** section, participants suggested that both Bullets are very important. Some suggested highlighting the role of ambassadors of good will in raising awareness at high levels for policy makers.

Implementation and Financing of the Global Plan of Action

110. The need for an Implementation and Financing Section in the updated GPA was considered by participants. Participant agreed that a replacement section on Financing and Implementation is required. They indicated that this section should be prepared based on the current text – adding new agencies and sources of funding. Participants suggested that the updated section indicate that substantial progress has been made in both funding and in the implementation of the GPA, while stressing the need for significant additional investments to meet global food and agriculture goals, and other developmental goals and to address emerging challenges, including climate change.
111. Participants indicated the importance of **paragraph 6** of the current text, and suggested placing this early in the updated section. It was suggested that the section stress the importance of supporting **national programmes** and the need to **harmonize and coordinate activities under the International Treaty and GPA**, as well as relative activities under the CBD. Some participants noted the need to ensure funding is available beyond the International Treaty Annex I List of crops covered under the Multilateral System.

General Comments

112. In general, participants felt that the current GPA reflects to large extent, current priorities but some modifications are suggested to reflect the changes that have occurred since 1996 and the new challenges and gaps as identified in the SOW-2. Thus, retain much of current text and focus on gaps and needs and changes identified in the SOW-2.
113. Participants indicated that the “Coordination” sections need to separate between coordination at the national level and coordination at the regional/international levels (perhaps separate subsections).
114. In general, participants felt the text in the current GPA could be simplified, and there is need to avoid and reduce duplication. They also indicated that the intent of all priority activities should be retained; however, some merging could be appropriate.
115. Some suggested removal of all paragraphs concerning linkage, as the links are obvious or retain only ‘less obvious’ linkages.

**Regional Consultation for North Africa, Near East and Central Asia on the
Updating of the Global Plan of Action on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA**

2-3 November 2010, ICARDA Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic

Agenda

Day 1 – Tuesday 2 November 2010

8.00 – 8.30	Registration	
8.30 - 9.00	Welcome FAO ICARDA Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Mr. Stefano Diulgheroff Dr. Maarten van Ginkel, DDG Mr. Dan Leskien
9.00 - 9.15	Introduction of participants	
9.15 - 9.25	Agenda and Objectives	S. Diulgheroff
9.25 - 9.40	GPA updating process	S. Diulgheroff
9.40 - 10.00	Coffee break	
10.00 - 10.40	Changes in PGRFA conservation and use: Challenges for the new GPA	S. Diulgheroff
10.40 – 11.00	Regional Summary	Ahmed Amri, ICARDA
11.00 - 11.15	Dynamics of working group discussion	Barbara Pick, FAO
11.15 - 13.00	Working Group session 1	
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch	
14.30 – 16.10	Working Group session 2	
16.10 – 16.30	Coffee break	
16.30 – 18.10	Working Group session 3	

Day 2 – Wednesday 3 November 2010

8.30 – 10.10	Working Group session 4	
10.10 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 - 12.10	Working Group session 5	
12.10 – 14.30	Lunch	
14.30 – 15.00	Wrap up Sec.I (GPA introductory parts)	Richard Laing, FAO
15.00 – 15.30	Wrap up Sec.II (<i>in situ</i> and on farm)	Gregory Sixt and Abdallah Bari, ICARDA
15.30 – 16.00	Wrap up Sec.III (<i>ex situ</i>)	Jan Konopka, ICARDA
16.00 – 16.30	Wrap up Sec.IV (use)	Ahmend Amri and Kenneth Street, ICARDA
16.30 – 17.00	Coffee break	
17.00 – 17.30	Wrap up Sec.V (institutions and capacity building)	B. Pick
17.30 – 17.45	Closure	

**Regional Consultation for North Africa, Near East and Central Asia on the
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